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SUBJECT CIA Blamed for Murder of FMLN Leader

J. MARIE MORRIE: El Salvador's Marti National Liberation Front blames the CIA for the murder of an FMLN leader yesterday in Nicaragua.

Paz Cohen has this report.

PAZ COHEN: Fifty-four year old Melita Ania Montez, a member of the Marti National Liberation Front's General Command was murdered at dawn Wednesday in a house nine miles south of the Nicaraguan capital by a commando force which the FMLN says was organized the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Ania Montez, better known as Commander Anna Maria, was a co-founder and second in command of the Popular Liberation Forces, or FPL, one of five political military organizations belonging to the FMLN.

In a communique confirming the commander's death, the directorate of the FMLN said she had been in Nicaragua on assignment to do some international work and said her murder shows the length to which imperialism will go.

Nicaragua's Interior Ministry announced that an exhaustive investigation is underway to identify and capture those responsible for what it terms a brutal murder.

The assassination of the former grade school teacher came only days after the FPL marked its 13th anniversary and followed by less than a month the murder in El Salvador of

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another leading woman opponent of the Salvadoran government, Human Rights Commission President Marianell Garcia Vija.

More importantly, commander Anna Maria's murder in Nicaragua represents a new international incident for that country to contend with at the same time it is trying to repel an invasion force of former national guardsmen and to avoid an open war with neighboring Honduras which is accused of abetting the invaders.

On bad terms also with the government of El Salvador because of its open sympathies for the Salvadoran insurgents, Nicaragua may find itself in an extremely delicate situation if the murderers are discovered to be nationals of that country. Relations with Honduras similarly could be expected to hit a new low if the commando force is found to have entered across that border.

Paz Cohen, WHUR News.